

February, 1999



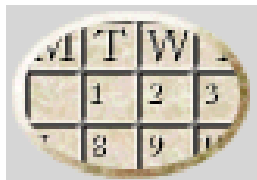
Wastewater News

Internet Address: <http://www.epa.gov/owm>

Working towards Clean Water



Clean Water . . . a better environment
Office of Wastewater Management



UPCOMING MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

What is happening in February?

Dates	Activity	Location	Contact
2/1-2/99	Florida Department of Environmental Protection and EPA Region 4 Fundamentals of Pretreatment Training Course	Gainesville, FL	Jan Pickrel (202) 260-7904 Patrick Bradley (202) 260-6963
2/1-3/99	Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Conference	St. Cloud, MN	Steve Hogye (202) 260-5841
2/2/99	SRF 101 Training - All EPA personnel interested in the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs are invited to attend. The workshop is designed to familiarize EPA Headquarters Staff with the basics of the SRF Program. The morning session will cover such general topics as assistance options/eligible activities and project examples. The afternoon session will focus on the technical and financial aspects of the programs.	Washington Information Center - Room 3 North from 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Kristin Kenausis (202) 260-2036
2/3-4/99	Florida DEP & USEPA Region 4 Advanced Pretreatment Training Course	Gainesville, FL	Jan Pickrel (202) 260-7904 Patrick Bradley (202) 260-6963
2/2-5/99	AMSA Winter Conference	Phoenix, AZ	Mike Cook (202) 260-5850
2/10-11/99	National Sanitation Foundation - Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting for Source Water Protection - Environmental Technology Verification Project	Baltimore, MD	Steve Hogye (202) 260-5841 Joyce Hudson (202) 260-1290

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2/17-19/99	Environmental Permitting Symposium, sponsored by Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF) in association with EPA will provide a technical forum for environmental professionals to share experiences and knowledge concerning permitting activities and to discuss legal and regulatory requirements. For more information, see http://www.awma.org/awma/confs/descriptions/permit.htm .	RTP, NC	Jennifer Sachar (202) 260-1389
2/18-2/20	American Wetlands Month Conference	New Orleans	Kristin Kenausis (202) 260-2036
2/22-26/99	Comprehensive Storm water & Aquatic Ecosystem Management Conference	Auckland, New Zealand	Mike Cook (202) 26-5850
February	SRF Funding Framework Workshop	Region IX	Juanita Licata (415) 744-1949

Upcoming Events

National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC)

National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC) and St. Louis University Cosponsor Four Course Offerings in Region 7. NETCSC's "Assessing Wastewater Options for Small Communities" course for trainers and technical assistance providers who work with small-community local officials will be offered four times in Region 7 in 1999: April 6-7 at the Runge Conservation Center in Jefferson City, Mo.; April 19-20 at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Ia.; May 10-11 in Emporia, Ks. [location to be announced]; and May 12-13 at Hastings Community College in Hastings, Ne. The course aims to help outreach professionals work more effectively with small community officials. For more information contact Betty B. Ford at 202-260-8510.

Conference Announcement and Call for Papers

OWM, in cooperation with Region 5 and the Northeast Illinois Planning Commission, is co-sponsoring a National Conference on "Tools for Urban Water Resource Management and Protection" in Chicago February 7-10, 2000. A call for papers is open until March 1. The conference will provide participants with practical, applied information on the most effective tools and technology for meeting NPDES permit requirements, and will emphasize the Phase II program's six minimum measures. For more information, see http://www.nipco.org.il.us/water_tools_2000.htm or contact John Kosco on (202) 260-6385.

REGULATIONS AT WORK

Proposed Rule on Electronic Reporting in the NPDES Program

EPA is proposing changes to its NPDES regulations to allow reports and other information to be submitted electronically. When EPA promulgated the current NPDES regulations, the Agency did not anticipate the need for electronic reporting. Consequently, the current regulations do not specifically address use of electronic reporting technologies. The proposed rule would establish criteria for electronic reporting and a specific process and conditions for electronic reporting of discharge monitoring reports (DMR) to EPA. The proposal addresses electronic signature, certification, and record keeping requirements that permittees would follow when submitting forms to EPA electronically. A stakeholder draft is currently available. We expect to publish a proposed rule in February 1999. For more information, contact Robin Danesi on (202) 260-2991.

Final Rule for NPDES Municipal Permit Application Forms and Regulatory Revisions

The current NPDES Permit Application regulations and forms would be revised to reflect amendments to the Clean Water Act and changes in program requirements and emphasis. This action would also develop a sewage sludge permit application form and revise permit application regulations to foster the issuance of permits implementing the Agency's standards for sludge use or disposal. The proposal was published in the Federal Register on December 6, 1995 (60 FR 62545). Comment review is complete and we are expecting the final rule in February 1999. For more information, contact Robin Danesi on (202) 260-2991.

Streamlining the General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution (Proposed Rulemaking #2040-AC58)

The proposal will streamline portions of the National Pretreatment Program (40 CFR 403) to reduce the burden from technical and administrative requirements that affect industrial users, Privately Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), and Regional and State Control Authorities. After OMB completed its review of the draft proposal, OWM worked to develop compromise regulatory language and preamble discussion to incorporate comments and suggested language changes from OMB, Regions, and NRDC. OWM briefed AA Chuck Fox on December 11, 1998 to provide a status update, discussion of the unresolved issues and secure direction on proceeding with the rulemaking. Elaine Brenner presented a status update on the rulemaking to the CSI Subcommittee for the Metal Finishing Sector on December 15, 1998. The proposed rule was redrafted and delivered to OMB for final review/approval on December 18, 1998. We anticipate sending the proposed rule to the Administrator for signature in February, 1999. For further information, contact Jeff Smith on (202) 260-5586.

Second Generation Permitting

During February, 1999, Permits Division will kick off the workgroup on establishing more consistent administrative processes across media programs. This is one of four cross-Agency efforts stemming from the broad initiative to follow up on recommendations from the Permit Improvement Team (PIT). Permits Division will represent OW on other workgroups being led by other program Offices that will focus on: performance-based permitting, multi-media permitting and public participation enhancement. For the administrative process area, we have developed an internal work plan calling for an initial period of study and analysis, followed by policy initiatives commencing in one year and regulatory changes six months following that. OWM already is leading a number of projects specific to the wastewater program that support the area of reinvention, including NPDES application streamlining, NPDES base program and pretreatment streamlining, and electronic reporting. For more information, contact Bob Klepp on (202) 260-5805.

OTHER INFORMATION

Small Community Team Programs Reported in International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Newsletter

The current issue of ICMA's newsletter SCAN overviews several grant programs managed by Small Underserved Communities Team members. SCAN carries thumb-nail summaries of the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC), the National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC), the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP), and the Small Community Outreach and Education (SCORE) program. The newsletter's next issue will highlight several other programs team members manage. SCAN is the newsletter put out by the Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN), an outreach program conducted by the ICMA with funding by EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. For more information contact Betty B. Ford at 202-26-8510.

Publication of Guidance on Discharge Monitoring and Reporting for Storm Water Industrial Permittees

The ~~A~~Guidance Manual for the Monitoring and Reporting Requirements of the NPDES Storm Water Multi-Sector General Permit, ~~@~~ EPA 833-B-99-001, is now available. This publication describes the storm water discharge monitoring requirements (visual, analytic and compliance) and analytic monitoring reports required of certain industrial sectors covered by the Multi-Sector General Permit. It will be available on the OWM website and through the OW Resources Center. For more information, contact on Bryan Rittenhouse (202) 260-0592.

Construction Grants Program Information Collection Request (ICR)Renewal

The second of two notices for renewal of the ICR for the construction grants program was published in the Federal Register on January 20, 1999, for a thirty day public comment period. This is a request for renewal of the clearance to collect information by EPA and the States on the completion and closeout of the program, which currently expires on February 28, 1999. For more information, contact William Hasselkus on (202) 260-3707.

CWSRF/CWAP Funding Matrix

A funding matrix entitled ~~A~~Financing Clean Water Action Plan Activities~~@~~ is now available in hard copy and will soon be up on the OWM website at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/finan.htm>. The matrix links Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) key actions to potential federal agency funding sources. The matrix provides potential funding sources for 18 key actions that may potentially receive SRF money. In addition, the matrix links other EPA, USDA, HUD, DOC, and DOI funding programs to these key actions. For further information, or to receive a copy, contact Kristin Kenausis at (202) 260-2036.

1999 National Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Excellence Awards Program Guidance

The Municipal Assistance Branch has issued the 1999 National Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Excellence Awards program guidance. The program, authorized by Section 501(e) of the Clean Water Act, recognizes municipalities and industries that demonstrate outstanding technological achievements or innovative processes, methods or devices in their waste treatment and pollution abatement programs. Traditionally the Assistant Administrator for Water presents an engraved plaque to first and second place national winners in nine O&M categories. The awards presentation will be held at the Water Environment Federation's annual conference in the fall. Interested parties may contact their State water pollution control agencies or Maria Campbell, EPA at 202-260-5815.

Federal Funding Sources for Small Community Wastewater Systems

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Publication Availability

Due to popular demand, the Small Underserved Communities Team has ordered a reprint of their publication entitled, *Federal Funding Sources for Small Community Wastewater Systems*, November 1997. The publication lists federal agencies which offer financial and technical assistance to help small communities plan, design, and build water and wastewater systems. Maria Campbell, 202-260-5815.

TRIBAL INFORMATION

Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Grant Funding for FY'99

On January 21, 1999, the Municipal Assistance Branch (MSD/OWM) issued guidance to the Regions for the selection and award of \$6,750,000 in funding for wastewater systems for Indian tribes and Alaska Native Villages. EPA uses the priority list of the Indian Health Service to identify projects for funding under the Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Program. Funding can be used to support the planning, design, and construction of tribal systems, and up to 100% of eligible costs can be covered. EPA expects the regions to make grant awards to tribes by September 30, 1999. For more information, contact Sylvia Bell at (202) 260-7255.

Clean Water Tribal Resource Directory

Last week, the Municipal Assistance Branch submitted a copy of the *Clean Water Tribal Resource Directory for Wastewater Treatment Assistance* to the print shop for printing of 700 copies. The Resource Directory provides a listing of federal agencies, technical assistance and tribal organizations that provide financial and technical support to Indian tribes for wastewater treatment systems. The document is available now for distribution. For more information, contact Sylvia Bell at (202) 260-7255.

END OF REPORT